



June 24, 2015

Dear Senators:

We strongly oppose the Duncan amendment to the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill (H.R. 2578). Representative Jeff Duncan's (R-SC) rider (H. Amdt. 347) would restrict the Department of Justice from prosecuting violators of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Currently, H.R. 2578, along with the unacceptable language in Congressman Duncan's rider, has passed the House and is awaiting consideration in the Senate.

Congressman Duncan's needless amendment undercuts one of our most effective bird conservation laws. The MBTA protects millions of birds each year and is credited with preserving hundreds of species. It also holds responsible parties accountable for bird deaths caused in the event of a disaster, like the BP oil spill. This amendment would invite indiscriminate bird slaughter and eliminate accountability should it become law.

Audubon chapters are the eyes and ears for bird conservation in communities across the country and remain steadfast in support of bird conservation statutes like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These unprecedented attacks on core bedrock conservation laws are ill-advised and unacceptable. We respectfully ask the U.S. Senate to reject the Duncan amendment and any other amendments that undermine the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Sincerely,